



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Ahmad Alhendawi appointed the next Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement**

**15 November 2016, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia:** The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is pleased to announce the appointment of Ahmad Alhendawi as its next Secretary General, the youngest in the history of the organisation.

"I am honoured and humbled to be offered the opportunity to serve as the Secretary General of such a unique organisation representing the largest educational youth movement in the world," said Mr Alhendawi upon accepting the offer.

A passionate advocate for young people, Mr Alhendawi has served in various capacities in regional and international organisations, rising through the ranks to the position of United Nations Envoy on Youth in 2013. Mr Alhendawi believes in giving a voice to young people and recognises the importance of youth empowerment and involvement in global and local issues.

Mr Alhendawi, born in Jordan in 1984, holds a Master's degree in Advanced European and International Relations, a diploma as "Policy Officer in European and International Organizations" from the Institut Européen in Nice, and a Bachelor's degree in computer information systems from the Al-Balqa Applied University in Jordan. Perhaps most importantly, he was once a Scout himself.

Mr Alhendawi is a strong supporter of WOSM and is a familiar face at international Scouting events. He visited the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Scout Jamboree in Japan last year and most recently the Roverway in France.

Mr Alhendawi continued, "I am confident Scouting holds a solution for youth development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I look forward to working with WOSM's team to expand the Movement and deepen its social impact, while continuing to create a better future for children and young people."

As the Secretary General of WOSM, Mr Alhendawi will be entrusted with the mandate of promoting and safeguarding the interests of the Scout Movement. As its Chief Executive Officer, he will also direct its Secretariat, the World Scout Bureau.

Following the announcement of Mr Alhendawi's appointment, World Scout Committee Chairperson João Armando Gonçalves commented that, "The world has changed and continues to change very rapidly. We need someone like Mr Alhendawi who can steer the movement through uncertainty and help us to reach out to all segments of society and most importantly, to grow".

Mr Alhendawi succeeds Scott Teare, who retired last month. He is expected to begin his first day in office at the World Scout Bureau, Global Support Centre in Kuala Lumpur, on 1 March 2017.

**Ends**

**About the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)**

Scouting is one of the world's leading educational youth movements, engaging millions of young people around the world to be active citizens to create positive changes in the communities they live in. Since 1907! Founded by Lord Baden-Powell, WOSM is a confederation of 164 National Scout Organizations in a network of over 40 million members, including some seven million volunteers. As it has been doing for more than a century - creating a better world - it will continue to do so, and even better with the many Messengers of Peace across the globe.

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